

**RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION DECLARING STATE OF EMERGENCY  
IN JASPER COUNTY DUE TO 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**WHEREAS**, Jasper County Ordinance Sections 9-30 and 9-55 grants the County Council the power to meet the problems and dangers to the county and its residents resulting from disasters of any origin, and may issue proclamations and regulations concerning disaster relief and related matters which during an emergency situation shall have the full force and effect of law, and

**WHEREAS**, a state of disaster emergency pursuant to Ordinances 9-30 and 9-55 may be declared by the county council if it finds a disaster has occurred, or that the threat thereof is imminent, and extraordinary emergency measures are deemed necessary to cope with the existing or anticipated situation; and

**WHEREAS**, once a state of emergency has been declared, Section 9-55 provides that the County Council may:

- (1) Suspend existing laws and regulations prescribing the procedures of conduct for county business if strict compliance with the provisions of any statute, order, rule or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder or delay the necessary action in coping with the emergency;
- (2) Utilize all available resources of county government as reasonably necessary to cope with the disaster emergency;
- (3) Transfer the direction, personnel or functions of county departments and agencies or units thereof for the purpose of facilitating or performing emergency services as necessary or desirable;
- (4) Compel performance by elected and appointed county government officials and employees of the duties and functions assigned in county disaster plans;
- (5) Contract, requisition and compensate for goods and services from private sources;
- (6) Direct and compel evacuation of all or parts of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the county if such action is deemed necessary for the preservation of life or other disaster mitigation, response or recovery;
- (7) Prescribe routes, models of transportation and destinations in connection with any evacuation;
- (8) Control egress and ingress to and from a disaster area, with the movement of persons within the area and the occupancy of the premises therein;
- (9) Suspend, or limit, the sale, dispensing or transportation of alcoholic beverages, firearms, explosives and combustibles;
- (10) Suspend, or limit, nonemergency activities and prohibit public assemblies.

and

**WHEREAS**, On March 13, 2020, Henry McMaster, Governor of the State of South Carolina, issued Executive Order 2020-08 declaring that a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina due to an actual or imminent public health emergency for the State of South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared that the COVID-19 outbreak in the United States constitutes a national emergency, which began on March 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020, Henry McMaster, Governor of the State of South Carolina, issued Executive Order 2020-09 recognizing that COVID-19 represents an evolving public health threat, which requires that the State of South Carolina continue to take all necessary and appropriate actions in proactively preparing for and promptly responding to the threat posed by the COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, County Council, in response to the Governor's Executive Orders, amended the regular County Council Meeting Agenda on March 16, 2020 to include discussion of the emergency and this Proclamation, voting under the authority of Section 30-4-80 (A) to add this matter as an agenda item, finding in a unanimous vote of the members present and voting that an emergency or exigent circumstance exists if the item is not added to the agenda, as a result of the rapidly evolving medical issues, as noted in the national and state declaration of emergency, and the need to protect both the general public and the employees and officials of Jasper County;

**WHEREAS**, County Council makes the following findings:

1. There exists in Jasper County a medical emergency arising from the rapid spread of COVID-19 as noted in the national and state declarations of emergency, which requires that the State of South Carolina and Jasper County continue to take all necessary and appropriate actions in proactively preparing for and promptly responding to the threat posed by the COVID-19; and
2. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has issued guidelines describing best practices for arresting the rapid community spread of COVID-19, which include personal hygiene recommendations (handwashing, disinfection, etc.), as well as recommendations to limit gatherings of people and the utility of social distancing; and
3. Schools and school related events have been ordered closed by the Governor until at least March 31, 2020; and
4. It is in the public's best interests to limit potential exposure to and further communication of COVID-19 through all reasonable methods;

5. The spread of COVID-19 creates an imminent threat to the life, health, safety and welfare of the entire geographic area of Jasper County and its residents; and
6. Emergency measures are necessary in order to cope with the existing and anticipated dangers presented by COVID-19.

**THEREFORE, JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ALL AREAS OF JASPER COUNTY DUE TO THE DANGERS PRESENTED BY COVID-19. COUNCIL AFFIRMS THE DUTIES, OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGENCY JASPER COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR AS SET FORTH IN CHAPTER 9 OF THE JASPER COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES.**

**THIS STATE OF EMERGENCY SHALL LAST UNTIL MARCH 31, 2020 UNLESS RESCINDED BY COUNTY COUNCIL BEFORE THAT DATE, OR THE GOVERNOR RESCINDS THE STATE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY; PROVIDED HOWEVER, SHOULD THE GOVERNOR EXTEND THE STATE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY BEYOND MARCH 31, THE COUNTY DECLARATION WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT BEYOND MARCH 31, 2020 UNTIL FURTHER ACTION IS TAKEN BY COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**FURTHER, DUE TO THE NEED TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND POTENTIAL IMPOSITION OF SELF-QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS, DURING THIS STATE OF EMERGENCY, IN THE EVENT A QUORUM OF COUNCIL IS UNABLE TO BE CONVENED PHYSICALLY OR TELEPHONICALLY, AND IMMEDIATE ACTION MUST BE TAKEN BY COUNCIL TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS AND OTHERS WITHIN THE COUNTY, PURSUANT TO THIS PROCLAMATION, THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN IS HEREBY DELEGATED IN SUCH SITUATIONS THE EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO ISSUE SUCH FURTHER PROCLAMATIONS AND DIRECTIVES CONCERNING PUBLIC SAFETY, DISASTER RELIEF AND RELATED MATTERS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT AND CARRY OUT THE MEASURES NECESSITATED BY THIS EMERGENCY SITUATION AND RECOVERY EFFORTS.**

**FURTHER, IN FURTHERANCE OF THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE EMPLOYEES OF JASPER COUNTY FROM EXPOSURE AND COMMUNITY SPREAD OF COVID-19, THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR IS AUTHORIZED TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO COUNTY BUILDINGS AND EMPLOYEES BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC DURING THIS STATE OF EMERGENCY, AND IN CONCERT WITH OTHER COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, TO PROVIDE REQUIRED COUNTY SERVICES THROUGH EMAIL, US MAIL, OR OTHER COMMERCIAL DELIVERY SERVICES, MAKING ARRANGEMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY AND PRUDENT FOR LIMITED IN-PERSON APPOINTMENTS TO OBTAIN PERMITS AND LICENSES, OR OTHERWISE CONDUCT REQUIRED BUSINESS WITH THE COUNTY NOT ACCESSIBLE THROUGH ELECTRONIC OR OTHER MEANS.**

**THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR IS DIRECTED TO COORDINATE WITH COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS TO POST ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE AND COUNTY OFFICE BUILDINGS CONTACT INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO USE DURING THI STATE OF EMERGENCY.**

**THE COUNTY COUNCIL AFFIRMS THE AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OVER THE EMPLOYMENT AND DIRECTION OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES, AND COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE ADMINISTRATOR'S PLANS TO PROVIDE A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES.**

**THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR IS AUTHORIZED TO CONTRACT WITH SUCH CLEANING AND DISINFECTANT SERVICES AS HE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE TO ASSIST WITH CLEANING COUNTY OFFICES WHILE THE COUNTY OFFICES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.**

**COUNTY COUNCIL ALSO URGES ITS CITIZENS TO LIMIT THEIR EXPOSURE TO OTHERS TO PREVENT COMMUNITY SPREAD, AND TO THAT END, STRONGLY RECOMMENDS AVOIDANCE OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES OF MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE, OR SUCH LESSER NUMBER AS THE CENTER FOR DISEASE**

**CONTROL OR SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL RECOMMENDS.**

**LASTLY, COUNTY COUNCIL DESIRES TO REITERATE TO ITS CITIZENS THE RAPIDLY DEVELOPING NATURE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND THE USE OF STATE AND FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AND UPDATES. TO THAT END, THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (DHEC) [www.scdhec.gov/infection](http://www.scdhec.gov/infection) ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH FEDERAL PARTNERS AT THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) TO PROVIDE UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN, MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA (MUSC) HEALTH VIRTUAL CARE IS OFFERING FREE VIRTUAL CARE CONSULTATIONS AND SCREENINGS TO ANYONE IN SOUTH CAROLINA EXPERIENCING COVID-19-LIKE SYMPTOMS. NEW AND EXISTING PATIENTS SHOULD USE THE PROMO CODE COVID19 WHEN LOGGING INTO THE SITE: <https://campaigns.muschealth.org/virtual-care/index.html>. NO APPOINTMENT IS NECESSARY AND THIS SERVICE ALSO COVERS OTHER CONDITIONS SUCH AS ALLERGY/HAY FEVER, PINK EYE, SINUS INFECTION, SORE THROAT OR THE COMMON COLD. YOU CAN ALSO CALL 843-261-5940 FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**IF ANY SECTION OF THIS RESOLUTION/PROCLAMATION IS, FOR ANY REASON, DETERMINED TO BE VOID OR INVALID BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, IT SHALL NOT AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF ANY OTHER SECTION OR PORTION WHICH IS NOT ITSELF VOID OR INVALID.**

**This Resolution/Proclamation shall take effect immediately.**



**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 16TH  
DAY OF MARCH, 2020.**

  
**HENRY ETHERIDGE**  
Chairman, Jasper County Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David L. Tedder  
County Attorney

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tisha Williams, Acting Clerk to Council

